(d) the scheduled completion date of modernisation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In April, 1994 a bilateral assistance Project Document has been prepared for implementation of the Project in phases.The first phase is expected to commence with exchange of Side letters between the two Governments, viz. India and Netherlands in August, 1995. Completion of first phase is envisaged in September, 1997.

Lack of Train facilities in between Durg and Bhagalpur

1091. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that here is not a single daily train in between Durg and Bhagalpur via Rourkela, Ranchi, Bokaro, Gaya, Patna, Barauni;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this route has many important industrial places like Bokaro Steel Plants, H.E.C., BHEL at Ranchi; Dhanbad Coalfield; Sindri Fertilizer Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant and religious places like Rajgrih, Patna, Sahib, Nalanda, Baidyanath Dham, Rawpuri, Bihar Sharif;

(c) if so, whether Railways are planning to start a superfast train in the route; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) There is no train between Durg and Bhagalpur. The route suggested is too circuitous and therefore no train touching places like Rajgir, Nalanda, Baidyanathdham, Barauni can be introduced. Besides, there are operational and resource constraints.

Bogus Passports Issued by Jalandhar Passport Office

1092. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem reported in the 'Tribune' of July 7, 1995 captioned "Forged passport rakcet busted" stating that a large number of terrorist harbourers have fled from India under forged passports prepared by an office in Jalandhar;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto, indicating the details of persons nabbed in connection therewith and what are the details of the racket and its modus operandi; and

(c) whether any other such passport rackets have come to light during the past three years and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) During the period 1992-93, some passports were issued by the Passport Office Jalandhar by substituting photographs of the original applicants and tampering with original records. In this connection, on July 5, 1995 police authorities have arrested three officials of whom one is a regular employee and two casual workers, from Passport Office, Jalandhar and produced them before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jalandhar. They were remanded to Judicial custody and investigations in this connection are in progress. The arrested regular employee has since been placed under suspension and services of the two casual workers discontinued.

(c) According to information available, passport rackets of such nature have not been reported.

Conversion of Rail Lines in Orissa

1093. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been inordinate delays in the conversion of Naupada-Gunpur narrow gauge line in Orissa;

(b) whether it is proposed to be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. It is not an approved work.

(b) to (d) A survey has been taken up. Further consideration will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Operational Performance of Major Ports

1094. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Operational performance profile of major ports for the last three years, year-wise and port-wise by standard norms vis-a-vis targets;

(b) what is the provision of funds for modernisation/expansion and other facilities at major ports during the current year port-wise in general and for Maharashtra in particular with details of project;

(c) whether damurages on major ports are escalating for the last three years; if so, what are the details thereof port-wise and year-wise; and

(d) what specific action plan is worked out to improve performance profile of major ports in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The operational performance of Major ports during the last three years are as given below:

(In million tonnes)

	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
Part	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual*
Calcutta/ Haldia	17.20	18.34	19.71	18.50	19.81	20.49
Bombay	26.42	29.02	29.19	30.74	31.70	32.04
J.L. Nehru	3.71	3.01	3.63	3.39	3.95	5.01
Madras	23.88	25.33	27.05	26.54	27.29	29.46
Cochin	6.85	7.98	7.57	7.62	8.20	8.59
Vizag.	20.19	22.77	21.28	25.59	24.00	30.03
Kandla	19.98	22.91	22.57	24.50	23.75	26.51
Mormugao	17.01	16.31	16.33	18.72	18.20	18.88
Paradip	7.59	7.61	7.61	8.33	8.60	10.12
New Mangalore	8.48	7.09	8.76	8.63	8.70	8.01
Tuticorin	5.69	6.21	-6.30	6.70	6.80	8.04